

REC'D
21 FEB 1959

19 February 1959

Mr. Erwin D. Canham, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist
Economic Offensive
Chamber of Commerce of the United States
1615 H Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Canham:

Thank you very much for your letter of 6 February concerning a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Communist Economic Offensive to be held at the Hay Adams Hotel on 5 March.

As I mentioned to you on the telephone this morning, March 5th is Mrs. Dulles' birthday and I have a long standing engagement for that evening with her. You were very understanding of the priorities of such a commitment; however, if your Committee desires, I should be very glad to arrange for [redacted] and [redacted] who know everything on this general subject of the Communist economic offensive that I know, and more, to be with you that evening and to contribute to the discussion in any way that you may desire.

O/DCI [redacted]:dd

Retyped: AWD/ji

1 - DCI

1 - [redacted] w/basic & encl. via DD/I —

(for return to DCI prior to 5 March)

1 - AAB

1 - ER

1 - Col. Grogan

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S O

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Chamber of Commerce of the United States 11-1177



1615 H STREET, N.W. • WASHINGTON 6, D. C.
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February 6, 1959

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

While aware of the weight of your obligations and responsibilities, I would like to impose upon you in a matter of special concern to both of us.

Impelled by a sense of urgency, the National Chamber is taking unprecedented action in forming a small ad hoc committee of top people from the professional and business world to spell out the import of the communist economic offensive for American business. Enclosed is a list of those who have agreed to serve on the committee. I will be serving as chairman of the group.

As you can see from this list, the committee is composed of experts who are very close to the problem of Sino-Soviet aid and trade and who have given serious thought to the potential role of American business in combatting communist economic warfare.

STAT Could you and [redacted] as well as any other assistants you may wish to bring along, meet with this group on March 5 for dinner at 6:30 p.m. in Room 120 of the Hay Adams Hotel? We will not expect you to make a speech. Rather, we have in mind an informal and off-the-record exchange of views.

It may help you to know the objectives of the ad hoc committee. The group will try to do three things: 1) define the threat to American business posed by the Sino-Soviet economic aid and trade offensive; 2) determine the limits of practical action available to private companies and private management in countering the communist economic threat; and 3) recommend what action, if any, the National Chamber might take to help mobilize American business in the economic war with communism.

I hope you will be pleased that your speech at the National Chamber's Annual Meeting last year is beginning to bear fruit. I also hope, and earnestly so, that you will be able to accept this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Erwin D. Canham

Erwin D. Canham, Chairman
Ad Hoc Committee on Communist
Economic Offensive

Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America

Washington

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